UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/618,365	07/18/2000	Khanh Trang Nguyen	IGT1P022	8884

22434 7590 10/21/2005

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS LLP
P.O. BOX 70250
OAKLAND, CA 94612-0250

EXAMINER	
HUYNH, KIM T	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2112	

DATE MAILED: 10/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/618,365	NGUYEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Kim T. Huynh	2112	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *06 December 2004*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-13,29,30 and 32-50* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-13,29,30 and 32-50* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *08 July 2000* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4, 10-13, 49-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nikora (US Patent 4,516,777)

As per claim 1, Nikora discloses a communication interface for a gaming machine comprising:

(a) a main communication board having

- at least one primary power connection adapted to supply power to the main communication board (col.3, lines 21-35, ie power delivery to console)
- at least one secondary power connection adapted to supply power to at least one other component connected to the main communication board,(col.3, lines 21-35, power delivery from console to cartridges) wherein said at least one secondary power connection is adapted to have power supplied therethrough switched off while power is maintained through said at least one primary power connection and while said at last one other component remains connected to the main communication

board (col.3, line 67-col:4, line 27, ie unnecessary to power down the game console prior to selecting a new cartridge)

- a communication connection configured to communicate with a master gaming controller of the gaming machine, and (col.4, lines 34-52)
- at least one standard receptor slot(fig.4, 20 ie video game cartridge storage) for securing at least one other component to the main communication board, (col.2, line 65-col.3, line 2)

(b) a daughter board(fig.4, 30, ie cartridges) plugged into said standard receptor slot of the main communication board and configured to receive power from the main communication board, said daughter board adapted to utilize a first communication formation for allowing the gaming machine to communicate to said daughter board. (col.3, line 53-col.4, line 15)

As per claim 2, Nikora discloses the daughter board provides a communication format allowing the master gaming controller to communicate with a gaming machine device. (col.4, lines 34-52)

As per claim 3, Nikora discloses wherein the gaming machine device is a magnetic card reader, a display screen, a key pad, a network device or a display sign.(figures 1 and 2, ie video gaming system col.2, lines 60-65)

As per claim 4, Nikora discloses the daughter board provides a communication format allowing the master gaming controller to communicate with a gaming machine network.(col.4, lines 34-52)

As per claim 10, Nikora discloses the standard receptor is configured to supply power and a communication signal to the daughter board when the daughter board is plugged into the standard receptor slot. (col.3, line 53-col.4, line 15)

As per claim 11, Nikora discloses the power connection is configured to receive power from a substantially non-varying power source.(col.3, lines 21-42)

As per claim 12, Nikora discloses a second power connection wherein the second power connection is configured to receive power from a power source which is shut off by a switch within the gaming machine. (col.3, line 67-col.4, line 27, ie unnecessary to power down the game console prior to selecting a new cartridge)

As per claim 13, Nikora discloses the gaming machine is a traditional slot game, a video slot game, a video poker game, keno game, or a lottery game. (fig.2, ie video game system)

As per claim 49, Nikora discloses In a gaming machine having a master gaming controller and at least one other gamin device, a method of operating said gaming machine comprising:

- Providing a main communication board adapted to facilitate communication via various communications formats, said main communication board having a plurality of standard receptor slots; (col.4, lines 34-63)
- Providing power to said main communication board via a first power connection; (col.3, lines 21-35, ie power delivery to console)
- Providing a first daughter board in a first standard receptor slot of said main communication board, said first daughter board adapted to convert signals sent from the master gaming controller in a first communications format to signals in a second communication format for transmission to said other gaming device or along a gaming machine network; (col.3, line 21-col.4, line 27)
- Providing power to said first daughter board via a second power connection; (col.3, line 21-col.4, line 27)
- Switching off power through said first power connection to said main communication board; and (col.3, line 21-col.4, line 27)
- Maintaining power to said first daughter board via said second power connection during said step of switching off power through said first power

connection to said main communication board. (col.3, line 21-col.4, line 27)

As per claim 50, Nikora discloses the method further including the steps of:

- Providing a second daughter board in a second standard receptor slot of the main communication board, said second daughter board adapted to convert signals sent from the master gaming controller to signals in a third communications format for transmission to said other gaming device, another gaming device, or along a gaming machine network; (col.3, line 21-col.4, line 27)
- Providing power to said second daughter board via a third power connection; (col.3, line 21-col.4, line 27)
- Switching off power through said second power connection to said first daughter board; (col.3, line 21-col.4, line 27)
- Maintaining power to said second daughter board via said third power connection during said step of switching off power through said second power connection to said first daughter board; and (col.3, line 21-col.4, line 27)
- Replacing said first daughter board with a third daughter board in said first standard receptor slot of the main communication board. (col.3, line 21-col.4, line 27)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 5, 29-30,32,34, 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nikora (US Patent 4,516,777) in view of Olarig et al. (US Patent 6,587,909)

As per claims 29, 30, Nikora discloses in a gaming machine having a master gaming controller and a main communication board allowing communication via various communications formats, a method of communicating with a gaming machine via multiple communication formats, the method comprising:

- providing a first daughter board(fig.4, 30 ie cartridges) in a first standard receptor slot of the main communication board, which first daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a second communications format for transmission. (col.2,line 65-col.3, line 2)
- providing at least one primary power connection adapted to supply power to the main communication board; (col.3, lines 21-35, ie power delivery to console)

- providing at least one secondary power connection adapted to supply power from the main communication board to said first daughter board; (col.3, lines 21-35, power delivery from console to cartridges)
- second daughter board converts signals in a first communications format from the master gaming controller to signals in a communications format, other than the first communication format, for transmission. (col.3, line 21-col.4, line 27)

Nikora discloses all the limitations as above except replacing daughter board with a second daughter board in the first standard receptor slot of the main board while power is maintained through said primary power connection. However, Olarig discloses a computer system has hot plug card connectors in which cards can be inserted and removed while the computer system remains powered up. (col.14, lines 36-45)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Olarig's teaching into Nikora's system so as to add or replace memory modules within a computer system without interrupting power and without requiring rebooting. (col.1, lines 36-40)

As per claims 5, 37, Nikora discloses the gaming machine network is a casino area network or a wide area progressive network.(fig.1, ie video gaming system)

As per claim 32, Nikora discloses the third communication format is a fiber optic communication standard. (col.3, lines 32-50)

As per claim 34, Nikora discloses wherein the gaming machine device is a magnetic card reader, a display screen, a key pad, a network device or a display sign.(figures 1 and 2, ie video gaming system col.2, lines 60-65)

5. Claims 6-7, 33, 35-36, 38-39, 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nikora (US Patent 4,516,777) in view of Olarig et al. (US Patent 6,587,909) and further in view of Acres et al. (US Patent 5,741,183)

As per claims 6, 33, 35, Nikora discloses all the limitations as above except the communication format is selected from the group consisting of RS-422/485, Fiber Optic, RS-232, DCS Current Loop, Link Progressive Current Loop and USB. However, acres discloses system enclosed RS232 interface *(col.9, lines 53-54)*

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Acres teaching into Nikora's system so as to provide an integrated system usable with a variety of gaming devices made by different manufacturers. (col.2, lines 37-49)

As per claim 7, Nikora discloses the communication connection between the main communication board and the master gaming controller is configured for an RS-232 communication format or a USB communication format. However, acres discloses system enclosed RS232 interface (col.9, lines 45-67)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Acres teaching into Nikora's system so as to provide an integrated system usable with a variety of gaming devices made by different manufacturers. (col.2, lines 37-49)

As per claim 36, Nikora discloses all the limitations as above except wherein communications are made with a gaming machine network having at least one additional gaming machine. However, Acres discloses a system provides plurality of machines connected to an associated floor controller over a network (col.2, lines 55-61)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Acres teaching into Nikora's system so as to provide an integrated system usable with a variety of gaming devices made by different manufacturers. (col.2, lines 37-49)

As per claim 38, Nikora discloses wherein said second gaming device is located on said gaming machine network. (fig.4, 30 ie different game cartridges(game devices) are on the same game system)

As per claims 39, 44, Nikora discloses all the limitations as above except the method further comprising the step of: Communicating a signal to a remote gaming device on said gaming machine network when money is accepted by the

gaming machine, said remote gaming device being adapted to tally the amount of money accepted by a plurality of gaming machines in the gaming machine network. However, Acres discloses remote reconfiguration includes sending a reconfiguration command from a host computer to one or more of the gaming devices. The gaming devices on receiving a reconfiguration command will reconfigure its jackpot payout in accordance with the reconfiguration command. (col.6, lines 27-67)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Acres teaching into Nikora's system so as to provide an integrated system usable with a variety of gaming devices made by different manufacturers. (col.2, lines 37-49)

6. Claims, 40,42-43, 45, 47-48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nikora (US Patent 4,516,777) in view of Olarig et al. (US Patent 6,587,909) and further in view of Acres et al. (US Patent 5,741,183) and further in view of Wells et al. (US Patent 6,805,634)

As per claims 40, 45, the modified of Nikora discloses all the limitations as above except wherein the gaming machine network contains a plurality of gaming machines connected as part of a daisy chain, said daisy chain comprising a communication loop. However, Wells discloses a network system is used to connect a gaming terminal which connected such as in a daisy-chain fashion to other gaming terminals in a group via controller to server. (col.6, lines 14-36)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Wells's teaching into Nikora's system so as to provide sufficient security and reliability safeguards that fully and partially automatic downloads will be permitted by gaming regulatory authorities. (col.3, lines 41-45)

As per claims 42, 47, the modified of Nikora discloses all the limitations as above except wherein said daisy chain comprises a master communication device that receives all communications sent on the communication loop, including its own communications. However, Wells discloses a network system is used to connect a gaming terminal which connected such as in a daisy-chain fashion to other gaming terminals in a group via controller to server. (col.6, lines 14-36)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Wells's teaching into Nikora's system so as to provide sufficient security and reliability safeguards that fully and partially automatic downloads will be permitted by gaming regulatory authorities. (col.3, lines 41-45)

As per claims 43, 48, Nikora discloses wherein at least one of said daughter boards is configured to receive a disable communication signal using an echo jumper. (col.3, lines 21-67)

7. Claims, 41, 46, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nikora (US Patent 4,516,777) in view of Olarig et al. (US Patent 6,587,909) and further in view of Acres et al. (US Patent 5,741,183) and further in view of Wells et al. (US Patent 6,805,634) and further in view of Ewing et al. (Pub No 20050223090)

The modified of Nikora discloses all the limitations as above except wherein a plurality of gaming machines within said daisy chain each echoes upstream communication along the communication loop whether or not the power is on to a particular gaming. However, Ewing discloses a program executed in each microprocessor of each board that detects where in the order of the daisy-chain that the particular power board is located. The program control loop is selected. (paragraph [0137])

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Ewing's teaching into Nikora's system so as to provide power to system without having to consume much or any retma space. (paragraph [0009])

8. Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nikora (US Patent 4,516,777)

a. As per claim 8, the modified of Nikora does not explicitly disclose the standard receptor slot is configured to accept a 15 pin connector.

It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to have receptor slot is configured to accept a 15 pin connector, since applicant has not discloses that having the receptor slot is configured to accept a 15 pin connector to solve any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears having a connector to receive an expansion device not specifically a 15 pin type of connector for receiving expansion device would perform equally well with.

b. As per claim 9, Nikora discloses a connector with one or more ground and power pins *(multiple devices therefore multiple pins)*; however, Nikora does not explicitly discloses the ground pins the ground pins are longer than the power pins on the connector.

Examiner take Official Notice that ground pins power pins is well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the ground pin is longer than power pins into Nikora's system so as to distinguish between the two pins.

Response to Amendment

9. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn, but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

10. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

11. *Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Huynh whose telephone number is (571)272-3635 or via e-mail addressed to [kim.huynh3@uspto.gov]. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9.00AM- 6:00PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rehana Perveen can be reached at (571)272-3676 or via e-mail addressed to [rehana.perveen@uspto.gov].*

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (571)273-8300 for regular communications and After Final communications. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571)272-2100.

Kim Huynh

October 11, 2005